

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /087 W

-----221206 128602 /13

R 221020Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3702

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0609

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: EDU CHAIRMAN INTERVIEW

1. SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) ENGLISH BULLETIN FEB 22
CARRIES LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH LTGEN TYASSU MENGESHA,
DESCRIBED AS CHAIRMAN OF EDU. MENGESHA MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS: (A) EDU MEMBERSHIP BROADLY BASED INCLUDING
PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS AS WELL AS TRADITIONAL LEADERS;
(B) EDU PRIORITY OBJECTIVE IS TO CONVINCE MEMBERS
ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES TO JOIN WITH ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND
REMOVE DIRG IN THE SWIFTEST AND MOST DIRECT MANNER POS-
SIBLE; (C) EDU AND EPRP PROGRAMS SIMILAR ON CERTAIN
BASIC ISSUES, NOTABLY DEMOCRATIC FORM FOR CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL AUTONOMY AND GUARANTEED CIVIL RIGHTS;
HOWEVER EPRP IS POLITICAL PARTY, WHEREAS EDU IS
POLITICAL MOVEMENT; (D) EDU FAVORS PEACEFUL SOLUTION
ERITREAN ISSUE ON BASIS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH
RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF ERITREAN PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR
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OWN DESINY; AND (E) ATTAINMENT SUCH PEACEFUL
SOLUTION IS BOUND UP WITH ESTABLISHMENT DEMOCRATIC
STATE IN ETHIOPIA.

2. CONSIDERABLE PORTION INTERVIEW DEVOTED TO EDU
OBJECTIVES AFTER REMOVAL "FASCIST REGIME". ACCORDING
MENGESHA, EDU BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE TRANSITIONAL

GOVERNMENT WHOSE CHIEF TASK WOULD BE TO CONVENE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD PREPARE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEDULE GENERAL ELECTION. TRANSITIONAL REGIME WOULD ALSO REPEAL ALL "TERRORIST" LEGISLATION OF DIRG; OPEN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES; PUT ADMINISTRATION OF ECONOMY ON DEMOCRATIC BASIS; AND AMNESTY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES. CHOICE BETWEEN REPUBLIC/CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY WOULD BE DEMOCRATICALLY DECIDED UPON.

3. RE FATE OF THOSE NOW IN POWER, MENGESHA SAID DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY BUT EMPHASIS WOULD BE AWAY FROM REPRISAL TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. MILITARY ROLE IN FUTURE WOULD BE LIMITED TO THAT OF ASSURING ETHIOPIAN SECURITY, WHEREAS MUCH MONEY NOW REPEATEDLY "SQUANDERED" ON MILITARY AND INTERNAL SECURITY APPARATUS.

4. COMMENT: INTERVIEW SO FAR PUBLISHED ONLY IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC SUNA BULLETINS. HOWEVER, WE ASSUME IT WILL BE FEATURED IN PRESS FEB 23. BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, PROVINCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO00609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0129
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770222/aaaaatfb.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29f660c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3267137
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDU CHAIRMAN INTERVIEW
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, ET, EDU, (TYASSU MENGESHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29f660c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009